

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 14-20 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 7 and 13 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while the remaining claims are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Claims 9-11 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including page 14, lines 4-10. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 12-13, 15, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2003/0059098 to Jones et al. Further, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Jones '098. Applicants have reviewed the above-noted rejections and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to an automatic teller machine (ATM) electronically connected to one or more devices, the one or more devices comprising: a deposit device configured to receive an initial bank note and a bank note substantially the same as the initial bank note that has been identified as a counterfeit bank note at an external station; an image extraction device configured to extract one or more images from the initial bank note and from the counterfeit bank note; a transaction log device configured to attach a transaction log to the one or more images; a comparison device configured to compare the one or more images of the initial bank note to the one or more images of the counterfeit bank note in order to obtain a comparison result; and a retrieval device for tracing the counterfeit bank note, which is configured to retrieve the transaction log attached to the initial bank note, if the comparison

device determines that the one or more initial images of the initial bank note and the one or more images of the counterfeit bank note are within the range of similarity.

Further, the present invention in claim 12 is directed to a method of tracing bank notes, that comprises the steps of: receiving a deposit of an initial bank note; extracting one or more initial images from the initial bank note; attaching an initial transaction log to the one or more initial images; receiving one or more images of a bank note substantially the same as the initial bank note that has been identified as a counterfeit bank note; comparing the one or more initial images of the initial bank note to the one or more images of the counterfeit bank note in order to obtain a comparison result; and retrieving the initial transaction log based on the comparison result, if the comparison result indicates that the one or more initial images of the initial bank note and the one or more images of the counterfeit bank note are within a range of similarity.

One of the features of the present invention is the use of images of an initial bank note and of a counterfeit bank note, both being extracted by the *same* image extraction device for tracing a counterfeit banknote, wherein a deposit device is configured to receive an initial bank note and a counterfeit bank note which is substantially the same as the initial bank note after having been identified as counterfeit bank note at an external station, and an image extraction device is configured to extract one or more initial images from the initial bank note *and* from the counterfeit bank note.

The purpose of the invention is not to identify bank notes as being counterfeit, since as noted in the claims themselves, is performed at an external station, but to trace the banknote after it has been identified as a counterfeit bank note.

In contrast to the present invention, in Jones '098, a bank note is identified by scanning it and comparing the data obtained by the scanning procedure (e.g., the data mentioned on page 3, section [0053], and the example regarding a serial number in sections [0053] to [0058]) to a list. Specifically, the respective bank note is merely being identified to be counterfeit by comparison with the list.

Further, according to the present invention, an image extraction device extracts one or more initial images from the initial bank note and one or more images from the counterfeit bank note such that a high degree of accuracy in comparing the bank notes can be achieved, which then leads to a significant improvement in the tracing procedure.

In contrast thereto, in the device shown in Jones '098, the images are obtained by various ATMs and are collected in one apparatus (list). For this reason, it is impractical to carry out the comparison mainly with the images, which would make it extremely difficult to perform the matching in cases where the serial numbers are illegible in the images, as it may happen in many cases (see the description in section [0008] and [0009]). Consequently, not only is the purpose of the device shown in Jones '098 different from that of the present invention, but also the approach (solution) for accomplishing the purpose of the invention, namely the tracing of counterfeit bank notes is not even addressed much less hinted by Jones '098. This reference thus cannot anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the claimed invention nor the combination of elements that make up the present invention as a whole.

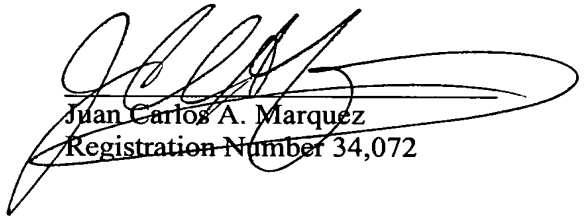
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 15, 2007